

Photo Gallery: USAID Response to Earthquake in India

These images capture people and places affected by the earthquake, and first relief to survivors. Two USAID disaster specialists were deployed to Jammu and Kashmir on October 12 to distribute aid and rapidly assess needs. The specialists were the first “on the ground” among bilateral donors. Humanitarian assistance from the American people is now valued at \$100,000, and is expected to reach \$600,000. Additional response will likely focus on shelter, warm clothing and blankets, easing psychological trauma, and modest cash-for-work to clear debris, construct interim shelter and restart livelihoods.



As temperatures drop, children in the earthquake-devastated village of Bandi - in the hills outside the border town of Uri – reach for warm jackets provided with U.S. support.

Photo: Save the Children



Indian families in hardest hit areas get some of their first relief – warm clothing, rice, dal, oil and salt. U.S. relief is focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable. Many villages have yet to be reached by responders.

Photo: USAID



USAID disaster specialists deployed to the stricken area on October 12 – the first responders on-the-ground among bilateral donors – talked with villagers, local officials and relief workers to assess needs and distribute relief. U.S. assistance is carried out by recognized, established organizations in this sensitive area.

Photo: USAID



U.S. humanitarian assistance in the relief stage is child-focused. As the most vulnerable survivors – who are coping with family losses, disruptions in schooling, and a lack of basics such as warm clothing and shelter – their needs come first.

Photo: USAID



Child-sized jackets were some of the first goods sent to Jammu and Kashmir with U.S. support. Inclement weather in the high mountain villages constrains response. A fast-approaching winter intensifies the need for warm clothing for survivors.

Photo: Save the Children



Boys in front of their damaged school welcome visitors to their remote, high-elevation village. To relieve trauma and return people to normalcy, restarting school, recreation for youth and other community activities is a priority.

Photo: USAID



Loss of life is widespread throughout Baramulla, Kupwara and Poonch, the most affected districts of the state. Parents, siblings, relatives and neighbors are mourned. Similar to trauma counseling supported by the U.S. after the Indian Ocean tsunami, organizations and volunteers are poised to address the psychological health of survivors.

Photo: USAID



About 90 percent of homes are damaged in the Indian quake zone, affecting at least 160,000. Limited access to hard-to-reach communities makes shelter construction daunting. Building shelters to withstand winter conditions is a response focus. Use of existing debris and locally available materials, such as tin roofing, will be pursued.

Photo: USAID



Home damage has been significantly underestimated. Due to the inaccessible terrain, assessments are being done visually from air transports. Intact rooftops seen from above belie uninhabitable homes. Disaster response teams witnessed many families taking the initiative to sort debris for future use.

Photo: USAID



A lack of winterized tents is a problem as cold weather approaches. Key to response is finding alternatives for winter shelter. Modest inputs, such as tin roofing, tarpaulins and wood beams may be enough to prepare villagers for the first heavy snowfall. USAID is exploring the dispatch of mobile teams of carpenters and masons to assist villagers with local solutions.

Photo: USAID



Livelihoods as well as loved ones and homes were lost in the disaster. Many cattle, a source of income, are gone along with small businesses. Cash-for-work programs are being explored to help people meet household needs and generate economic activity.

Photo: USAID